

The Quarterbreed

BY ROBERT AMES BENNET
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findings. The thought of voluntarily resigning from the service had been hard. To be cashiered was almost unendurable.

Yet he walked out with his back straight and his head well up. He went directly to the White House and sent in a written application for an interview with the president. It was refused. He went to his lodgings and spent the remainder of the day and half the night drafting and redrafting a concise statement of his argument against Vandervyn's contract. This he addressed to the president and stopped for mailing. He wrote nothing with regard to his own case.

When, near morning, he at last fell asleep, he was so near exhaustion that he did not awaken until late. The hour set for the reconvening of the court-martial had already come. He sprang into his uniform with a color that might have reminded a fellow officer of revelry in cadet barracks at West Point.

The worn soles of his highly polished shoes beat a tattoo on the carpeted floor by which he descended to the street. He did not turn to go in for a belated breakfast at the messer table of his landlady. He hastened along the few feet of narrow hall to the street door. As he drew it open, another man in uniform stepped into the doorway and confronted him. The other officer saluted. Hardy responded mechanically. For all his cool look, he was astonished. The man before him was the president's military aide.

"Captain Floyd Hardy?"

"At your service."

"You should now be in attendance upon the court-martial," stated the aide with cold severity.

"I shall appear to the court," replied Hardy. "If not delayed, I shall be only a few—"

"You will come with me," interrupted the aide, still more severely. "Your conduct has been brought to the attention of the president. It is to be seen, sir, whether you will continue to refuse to answer the inquiries of your superiors."

Hardy went white, but his jaw set firm with grim resolution. He stepped out beside the aide, and crossed the sidewalk to the waiting motor. As they were whirled away over the sleek asphalt, the aide sat with more than military stiffness, his head and body half averted from his companion as if to avoid contamination. Hardy sat as stiffly at the other extreme of the seat.

The ride was short. The car made a sudden turn, and curved around to the executive offices of the president. Hardy looked at his companion, perplexed. The face of the aide showed only the stern watchfulness of one who has a reputationally dangerous prisoner under arrest. At the entrance he stepped behind, as if apprehensive that Hardy might attempt to escape. A doorkeeper conducted them along a corridor into a small waiting room. He passed into the room beyond, but reappeared in a few moments and signed to Hardy to enter.

Hardy stepped into the room, and the door was closed behind him. The aide and the doorkeeper had remained outside. Hardy looked around with a frown of perplexity. Across the room a man sat writing at a businesslike desk. There was no one else present.

The man turned in his swivel chair and abruptly made a beckoning gesture. Hardy's hand went up in salute as he stepped forward. He was in the presence of the commander in chief of the army and navy.

The president looked him up and down with a severe glance.

"You are Captain Floyd Hardy?"

"Yes, sir."

"The same who suppressed the late insurrection in the Sulus?"

"I happened to be in command at the time, sir."

"After that you obtained a detail, your conduct in discharge of which has resulted in your trial by court-martial on serious charges. I have before me the findings of the court. The circumstances are exceptional. Because of your record and of certain statements that have been presented to me, I have been persuaded to give you an opportunity to explain your conduct."

Hardy saluted. "Permit me, sir, to first present for your consideration a matter relating to the interests of the tribe which—"

"Stop!" ordered the president. "Others are waiting for interviews. I can give you only ten minutes. If you expend them on this other matter, you will have no further opportunity to state your own case."

"The evidence before the court-martial covered the facts, sir. If those facts sustain the charges against me, then I am guilty, and desire no clemency. That is all I have to say on my own case, sir. With regard to the matter which I desire to present—"

"Sit down!" ordered the president. "You have nine minutes. Be brief."

Hardy seated himself and proceeded to present his argument against the Vandervyn contract. He spoke deliberately, but with a consciousness that covered what he had to say fully and

clearly, in words as forceful as they were few. The president listened attentively, but with no change in his expression. At the end of eight minutes Hardy stopped.

The president showed a trace of surprise. "Is that all you have to say? There is still a minute."

"That is all, sir," replied Hardy, rising.

The president touched a call button, but raised his finger. "One moment. What if I should confront you with witnesses?"

"As I have stated, sir, my only request is that all the witnesses in the case be examined."

"There are some already at hand. You shall see what they have to say about your charges."

The aide appeared and immediately went out again at a sign from the president. He returned with Vandervyn and Marie. At sight of Hardy the young man stopped short, but, meeting the president's cordial smile, came forward with easy assurance. Marie did not look at Hardy, as she followed.

The president addressed Vandervyn: "Captain Hardy has declined to ask for clemency. I have decided to sustain the findings of the court-martial. In the face of all this, he has had the temerity to make a charge of fraud against your Indian contract."

Vandervyn nodded: "Captain Hardy is too skilled a strategist not to realize that the best way to shield himself is to raise the cry of 'stop thief' against others. Does he allege that the signatures to my contract are forged?"

"The signatures are genuine. They were obtained by fraud," blurted charged Hardy.

"My word is as good or perhaps somewhat better than that of a cashiered officer," rejoined Vandervyn.

"You deny the charge," the president stated rather than inquired.

"Most emphatically," pleasantly agreed Vandervyn. He looked significantly from Hardy to Marie. "As a soldier—until recently—the gallant captain probably believes in the saying that all is fair in war and love."

Marie lowered her eyes. The president looked thoughtful. "Of course, Mr. Vandervyn, there can be no question, when it is a matter of your word against his. Yet were there any other witnesses than yourselves and the Indians?"

"Your excellency evidently has not seen the contract," said Vandervyn. "It is duly witnessed by Charlie Redbear, the official interpreter, and by his sister."

"Ah, the interpreter, you say? This matter may be rumored in the house and even in the senate. It will be well for you to send for the man."

Vandervyn shrugged. "Can't do it, even to oblige you, Mr. President. The fellow has gone to the place where



"My Word's as Good or Better Than a Cashiered Officer's."

could storage is unknown. My uncle told you about the affair. The fellow was drunk; he aimed his 'gun' at me. I supposed it loaded, and shot him in self-defense. Hardy was present. He can't deny what I say, without forswearing himself."

Hardy met the president's look of inquiry, and bowed in confirmation of the statement. The president again looked thoughtful. "That leaves the man's sister as the only witness to the contract. It would be well if she could be produced."

The aide left the room. Vandervyn again shrugged. "Search has been made for her, Mr. President. All that could be learned from her Indian relatives was that she had been very sick and had gone away. Of course that meant to the happy hunting grounds. There was no other place that she could have gone."

The aide returned to the room leading a tall young woman who was dressed in a Parisian tailored suit that Vandervyn had last seen on Marie. She was gloved and heavily veiled, and she entered the room with perceptible timidity. Marie went to take her arm in a reassuring clasp and raised the veil. At no time since their coming to Washington had Vandervyn

(To be continued)

NEW LAWS ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE

SUMMARY OF WORK OF FORTY-NINTH MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

\$19,517,746 APPROPRIATIONS

Death Penalty Abolished—Vocational Training Provided For—Hotel Inspection Laws Revised—Banking Laws Changed.

Jefferson City—The forty-ninth general assembly, which wound up its work and formally adjourned March 19, appropriated \$19,517,746 from the revenues for the maintenance of the state government and its institutions during the years 1917 and 1918.

This is \$3,767,746 in excess of the revenues for the biennial period, including moneys derived from the tax bills, as recently estimated by Gov. Gardner.

The conditions under which the state obtained a \$2,300,000 loan from the members of the St. Louis Clearing House, to pay off the debts of the state, were that there should be no over-appropriations which might prevent the state from paying the claims taken up by a St. Louis bank the latter part of the year 1918.

The appropriations, not including one-third of all receipts for public schools, total \$13,011,831, which is over \$1,200,000 in excess of the revenues from present sources.

With two dissenting votes, Representative Whitaker's bill abolishing the death penalty in Missouri was passed by the senate. The late John Whitaker, his father, when a member of the house, secured the passage of the present law, making it optional with the jury whether life imprisonment or the death penalty is inflicted in capital cases.

Important Laws Enacted.

The more important laws enacted are: State tax commission, state prison board, with provision of funds to employ convicts at state work in order of leasing them to private contractors; state highway board in charge of the construction of state roads, with establishment of a means by which the state can receive federal aid for roads; tax of 75 cents on the \$1,000 of capital and surplus of corporations; tax on income; tax on all inheritances; tax of 15 cents on the \$100 valuation of bonds owned in the state; on whiskey; increased saloon license; mine inspection tax; tax on soft drinks; a prohibition of the infliction of the death penalty; higher standard of dentistry examinations; any county to vote to maintain a public hospital; vocational educational bills, under which Missouri can receive federal aid for vocational training in the public schools; stronger hotel inspection law; \$300,000 appropriated for furnishing the new capitol; permission of the board of education of St. Louis to pay transportation of poor children to and from school; Hawes L. V. L. bill, prohibiting the circulation of anonymous literature during a political campaign; employment of convicts on the public roads authorized; regulation of the shipment and handling of milk, cream and ice cream; amending charities and corrections law.

Amending consolidated schools and rural high schools laws. Fixing liability of persons collecting checks, drafts or other orders of corporations and firms. Amending law on bail bonds applicable to city of St. Louis. Providing for registration of bottle and trade marks. Empowering cities of the fourth class to regulate the running at large of fowls and domestic animals in corporate limits. Prohibiting extortion of confessions by police. School districts in cities of 75,000 and less than 500,000. Amending absentee voting law. High schools for colored children in St. Louis county. Regulating sale of commercial feeding stuffs. Frances E. Willard day in public schools. Mine inspection tax. Revising and amending code of dental laws. Secured debt tax act. Amending school law relating to disposition of tuition fees. Revising sale of revolvers. Revising hotel inspection law. Substituting for law increasing pay of St. Louis police officers. Special road districts. Amending public service commission law by requiring appellants to pay court docket fee of \$25.

Taxing wholesale liquor dealers. Amending probate law. Sale of real estate of minor ward by guardian or curator. Eliminating women from limitations in real suits. Release of deeds of trust, etc., by corporations. Corporation franchise tax. Levying a tax on all inheritances. Automobile license and registration tax. Creating a state highway department (Hawes L. V. L. bill). Act enabling Kansas City and Jackson county to consolidate governments—optional.

Creating state tax commission. Establishing vocational educational facilities in this state. Increasing state dramshop license. Reorganization of insurance money for burned county buildings. Permitting challengers and watchers in polls at constitutional amendment elections. For collection of poll tax. Poll tax must be expended on roads named in petition of poll-tax payers. Making uniform all bills of lading of common carriers. Making women eligible to election as members school boards. Reorganization of assessment life and accident insurance companies. County treasurer must maintain office at county seat. Amending peddlers' license tax law. Creating liens for work of blacksmith. Authorizing administrators and executors to pay for tombstones out of estate of deceased. Increasing pay of township assessors to conform to county assessors. Summer school in high school for teacher training. Placing food and drug inspection under board of agriculture. Optional bounty by counties for killing hawks and owls. Free transportation of school children in St. Louis. Board to ascertain money necessary for support of police force (applies only to St. Joseph).

Enabling members of the Missouri national guard absent from state on duty to register and cast their votes. Establishing "Bird Day" in the public schools. Providing for reorganization of the Missouri naval reserve to conform to requirements of the national defense act. Requiring registration of cattle to be driven through county in which the law

APPROPRIATIONS MADE.

Following are appropriations made from the revenues by the legislature:

Pay of civil salaries	\$1,272,100
Support of the elementary institutions	1,873,778
Pay of salaries and expenses of legislators	210,000
Pay of state debts	1,805,631
Pay of state deficiencies	444,464
State penitentiary, salaries and equipment	750,000
Support of national guard	265,000
Support of state educational institutions	2,679,241
Assessing and collecting revenues	400,000
Public schools	6,605,515

List of New Laws.

Following is a summary of measures passed by the legislature.

House Bills.

Promote safety of employees and passengers on railroads. Creating park fund for city of St. Joseph. Registration, advertising and licensing of stills. Increasing powers of state board of fund commission. St. Joseph empowered to purchase waterworks. Improvement of streets in city of St. Joseph. Prohibiting circulation of anonymous campaign literature. Changing time of holding court in twenty-fourth circuit. Changing time of holding court in thirty-first judicial circuit. Election of township committeemen. Renewal of third-grade teachers' certificates.

Establishment of county hospitals. Organization of mutual indemnity associations. Changing "open" season for taking fur-bearing animals. Amending the law on contest of wills. University cadet corps. Changing end of fiscal year of state from December 31 to June 30. Relating to license power of cities of the third class. Cities of third class authorized to issue bonds to meet judgments. Amending state aid law for public schools.

Prohibiting drawing of check, draft or order with intent to defraud. Empowering Confederate Soldiers' Home to lease for mining purposes part of its land. Amending the law relating to forgery in the second degree. Tax levy for erecting school houses and similar purposes. Amending and revising the road overseer code. Authorizing employment of convicts on the public roads. Disincorporation of special road districts.

Relating to election of officers of cities under special charter. Sewer districts in cities under special charter. Condemnation of property in cities under special charter. Revision of the general road laws. Regulating shipment and handling of milk, cream and ice cream. Amending charities and corrections law.

Amending consolidated schools and rural high schools laws. Fixing liability of persons collecting checks, drafts or other orders of corporations and firms. Amending law on bail bonds applicable to city of St. Louis. Providing for registration of bottle and trade marks. Empowering cities of the fourth class to regulate the running at large of fowls and domestic animals in corporate limits.

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Most vers libre is to poetry what a rose made of pink muslin and cotton stitching is to a fra-til La France hanging on the bush with a dewdrop in the center.

The rule is to admit the hand though it is only a remove from the bottom. You can say this for the banjo. It is a no harm to a melody voice.